

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preventing self-repair of nucleic acid of pathogenic white blood cells, bacteria and/or viruses which may be contained in blood components comprising the steps of:

adding to the blood components ~~a riboflavin photosensitizer~~ riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer;

irradiating the blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer with light in a visible or UV range at an appropriate wavelength to activate the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to fragment the nucleic acid of the pathogenic white blood cells, bacteria and/or viruses to cause permanent damage to the nucleic acid;

preventing self-repair of the nucleic acid; and

wherein the permanent damage to the nucleic acid caused by the photosensitizer and light is maintained over time such that the pathogenic white blood cells, bacteria and/or viruses will not reproduce in the blood components.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising adding a quencher to the ~~fluid~~ blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer.

5. (Currently amended) The process of claim 4 wherein the quencher further comprises a quencher selected from the group consisting ~~essentially~~ of glutathione, n-acetyl-cysteine, cysteine, adenine, histidine, tyrosine, tryptophan, ascorbate, vitamin E, trolox, alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol succinate (TPGS) and mixtures thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 further comprising adding to the ~~fluid~~ blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer a solution containing additives to enhance blood component viability.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the blood component further comprises platelets.
8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the blood component further comprises red blood cells.
9. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the light used to irradiate the ~~fluid~~ blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer and ~~photosensitizer~~ is in the UVB range.
10. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer is added to the blood components at a final concentration of between about 50-500 μM .
11. (Currently amended) A process for inactivating white blood cells which may be contained in a fluid comprising:
 - adding to the fluid containing white blood cells an effective amount of riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer;
 - exposing the fluid and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to light of an appropriate wavelength to activate the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer and cause damage to the nucleic acid of the white blood cells; and
 - substantially maintaining the damage to the nucleic acids of the white blood cells ~~to prevent re-activation of the white blood cells.~~
12. (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the fluid further comprises red blood cells.
13. (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the fluid further comprises platelets.
14. (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the fluid further comprises plasma.
15. (Currently amended) The process of claim 11 wherein the light to expose the fluid and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer is in the UVB range.

16. (Currently amended) The process of claim 11 wherein the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer is added to the fluid at a final concentration of between about 50-500 μM .

17. (Original) A fluid suitable for transfusing into a patient comprising red blood cells treated by the process of claim 11.

18. (Original) A fluid suitable for transfusing into a patient comprising platelets treated by the process of claim 11.

19. (Original) A fluid suitable for transfusing into a patient comprising plasma treated by the process of claim 11.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) A process for providing pathogen-reduced blood or blood components ~~suitable for re-infusion into a patient~~ comprising:

damaging the nucleic acid of any pathogenic white blood cells, bacteria or viruses which may be present with the blood or blood components ~~by; and;~~

adding riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to the blood or blood components; and

exposing the blood or blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to UV or visible light to activate the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to fragment the nucleic acid of the pathogenic white blood cells, bacteria or viruses ~~to prevent them from reproducing in the blood or blood component after re-infusion into the patient.~~

22. (Currently amended) The process of claim 21 wherein the step of exposing the ~~fluid~~ blood or blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to light further comprises exposing the ~~fluid~~ blood or blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer to light in the UVB range.

23. (Currently amended) The process of claim 21 wherein the riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer is added to the ~~fluid~~ blood or blood components and riboflavin acting as a photosensitizer at a final concentration of between about 50-500 μM .